GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:106
ANSWERED ON:30.07.2001
CDMA-WLL OPERATORS POLICY
PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of the revised National Telecom Policy, 1999;

(b) whether the Government are empowered to allot any telecom operations, especially Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) operations without tender to any private party simply on first come first served basis;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the Department of Telecommunications is under any mandatory obligation to accept the recommendations of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STA QUESTION NO. 106 FOR 30th JULY, 2001 REGARDING CDMA-WLL OPERATORS POLICY.

The National Telecom Policy (1994) was replaced in 1999 by New Telecom Policy (NTP-99) which has not been revised so far.

NTP-99 provides for induction of new service providers based on the recommendations of Telecom Regulatory Authorityof India (TRAI).Accordingly, recommendations of TRAI were sought in this regard.Based on the recommendations of TRAI, Government announced unrestricted entry for the provision of Basic Telephone Service. Therefore, the question of tendering did not arise.

The recommendations of TRAI provide, inter-alia, use of Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) as an access technology including usage of hand-held sets by the subscribers within the Short Distance Charging Area. The total quantum of spectrum to be allocated for this purpose is in accordance with the recommendations of TRAI.Actual allocation of spectrum will be made in stages linked to performance for which prescribed fee will be charged.

With the amendment of TRAIAct in 2000, it has now become mandatory to seek the recommendations of TRAI in respect of matters specified in sub-clause
(i) &
(ii) of Clause (a) of Sub-section (1) ofSection 11 of TRAI Act.The recommendations of TRAI in such cases follow a transparent and extensive consultation process. In this case also, a detailed consultation paper was circulated and Open House Discussions were held in the four metros. While it is not mandatory to accept the recommendations, it has been the practice in such cases to accept most of the recommendations, particularly those, which are perceived to be in the interest of consumers.